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(54) Title: IRRADIATED OSTEOINDUCTIVE EXTRACELLULAR MATERIAL

(57) Abstract: Extracellular material obtained from skeletal cells may be used in the stimulation of new bone production. The active extracellular material may be derived from cultures of immortalised hypertrophic chondrocyte-like cells. The invention provides a method for producing osseoinductive extracellular material from skeletal cells which method comprises or consists of the steps of: (1) culturing skeletal cells in a suitable culture medium; (2) harvesting extracellular material produced by said cultured cells; and optionally isolating and/or purifying said harvested material; (3) lyophilizing said material; and (4) irradiating said material with gamma radiation. The invention also provides a method of treating of patient (human or other animal) requiring bone repair/regeneration, which involves administering to said patient an osseoinductive amount of said material.

WO 2005/007837 A1